

**JENNINGS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**Central Administration Office Building**  
**Executive Session**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**February 9, 2023**

**Executive Session:** The Jennings County School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in executive session on February 9, 2023 at 5:45 p.m. in the Special Education Board Room of the Jennings County School Corporation Central Administration Office Building, 34 West Main Street, North Vernon, IN 47265, to discuss the following in accordance with IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b):

- (3) Discussion of the assessment, design, and implementation of school safety and security measures, plans, and systems. IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(3).
- (5) To receive information about and interview prospective employees. IC 5-14-1.5-6(b)(5).
- (9) To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees. This subdivision does not apply to a discussion of the salary, compensation, or benefits of employees during a budget process. IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9).

Board Members present were Dr. Amy Pettit, Cheryl Miller, Chelsea Morrison, Pat Sullivan, Travis Shepherd and Mary Lynn Whitcomb. Earl Taggart was absent. Superintendent Nicole Johnson, Administrative Assistants Carrie Manowitz and Philip Marsh were also in attendance.

The Executive Session adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

**Regular Meeting:** The Board of School Trustees held its regular meeting in the Board Room of the Jennings County School Corporation Central Administration Office Building, 34 West Main Street, North Vernon, IN 47265. The meeting began at 7:01 p.m.

The following link was also available to live stream the Regular Board meeting from your home:

<https://youtube.com/live/Y0h9QXfE7Wk?feature=share>

Board Members present were Dr. Amy Pettit, Cheryl Miller, Chelsea Morrison, Pat Sullivan, Travis Shepherd, Mary Lynn Whitcomb and Earl Taggart. Superintendent Nicole Johnson, Administrative Assistants Carrie Manowitz, Philip Marsh, Todd Ebinger, Amanda Sullivan, Roy Herr, Lisa Hearne and Board Executive Secretary Debbie Andis were also in attendance.

This meeting was a meeting of the School Board in public for the purpose of conducting the School Corporation's business and it was not to be considered a public community meeting. There was time for public participation as indicated by the agenda. (Policy 0166)

Consent Agenda Items: The following items were provided to the Board for their review and approval. If any Board Member had a concern about an item, he/she would have requested that the item(s) be removed from this grouping to be voted upon individually

The following consent agenda items were presented for approval without discussion:

- III. Minutes;
- VA1. Field Trips;
- VB1. Professional Staff: Leaves;
- VB2. Professional Staff: Resignations, Retirements;
- VB4. Conference Requests;
- VC1. Support Staff: Leaves;
- VC2. Support Staff: Resignations, Retirements;
- VC4. Conference Requests;
- VI. Claims;

Information Items: These items were given to the Board to review. If a Board Member wished to discuss any of these items; he/she would have indicated that the item(s) be removed from the grouping for discussion during the meeting.

The following information items were shared with the Board:

- VD4. January Fund Report

## **Agenda**

### **I. Pledge**

The President opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Pettit welcomed everyone in attendance and reminded everyone that we are live streaming this board meeting tonight.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to re-arrange some items. First to change VF. Operations: Permission to Purchase Four 2024 School Buses from an Approval to an Inform. Mr. Sullivan also requested to move item VG. Relations: North Vernon Police Department SRO Agreement to right after item VD. Mr. Shepherd second the motion.  
7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

### **II. Consent Agenda Items**

Mr. Taggart made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

### **III. Minutes of the Executive Session, Annual Board of Finance Meeting and the Regular Board Meeting of January 26, 2023.**

The minutes were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

### **IV. Community Non-Agenda Items**

- The President asked if anyone would like to speak on any items on the agenda or any other topic.

Greg Browning was present and asked to speak on school safety. Dr. Pettit asked that he hold till the topic under VE – School Safety.

- Graham Creek Elementary STEM Continuum Presentation.

Todd Hearne and Courtney Kreutzjans shared the amazing things happening at Graham Creek Elementary. Mr. Hearne gave an update on the STEM Certification process. Mrs. Kreutzjans shared what they've found and where they're heading with STEM.

V. New Business

A. Programs (Policy 2000)

1. Field Trips

None at this time.

B. Professional Staff (Policy 3000)

1. Leaves

None at this time.

2. Resignations/Retirements

- George Jeffrey Downs, JCEC Adjunct Teacher, resignation effective 2/02/2023.
- Emma Shockley, JCHS Assistant Track & Field Coach, resignation effective 1/24/2023.

These resignations were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

3. Recommendations

- Career Increment / Master Teacher Stipend  
2023/2024, 2024/2025, 2025/2026, 2026/2027, 2027/2028

➤ Valerie Bingham

Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve this master teacher stipend. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

4. Conference Requests

None at this time.

C. Support Staff (Policy 4000)

1. Leaves

None at this time.

2. Resignations/Retirements

- Samantha Garcia, JCHS ELL Para Pro, resignation effective 2/10/2023.
- John Irwin, JCS Bus Driver, resignation effective 1/30/2023.
- Jason Jennings, JCS Bus Mechanic, resignation effective 2/02/2023.

These resignations were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

3. Recommendations

- Bryce Barnes, JCHS Volunteer Wrestling Coach for 2022-2023, effective 1/30/2023.
- Pamela Craven, JCHS / NVE Nurse, \$25.00 hr. x 8 hrs. day, 185 days' year, effective 2/10/2023.
- Mindy Ryan, JCHS Cook, \$14.50 hr. x 7 hrs. day, effective 2/01/2023.
- Brittney Sharp, SCE ESSER Para Pro (Temp), \$14.75 hr. x 7 hrs. day, effective 2/10/2023.
- Alta Wolfe, SCE Para Pro, \$14.00 hr. x 7 hrs. day, effective 1/30/2023.

Mr. Taggart made a motion to approve support staff recommendations. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

4. Conference Requests

None at this time.

#### D. Finances (Policy 6000)

##### 1. Donations, Approval

- Casey's General Store, \$7.00 to NVE Picture Fund.
- Scipio United Methodist Church, \$100.00 to SE for Student Lunches.
- Ray G. Wagster, \$100.00 to JCHS Panther Pantry.
- Coffee Creek Conservation Club, \$1,500.00 to JCHS Academic Honors Program.
- Brewer Livestock, LLC., \$500.00 to JCHS School Supply Shop.
- Layman Hummel Insurance, Inc., \$100.00 to JCHS School Supply Shop.
- Jennings County Farm Bureau, "Bring Agriculture into the Classroom" Books (\$90.00 value) for each of JCS Elementary Schools.

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve the above donations. Ms. Morrison seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

##### 2. Resolution, Approval

- a. *Attachment* - A Resolution to allow the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to make adjustments to Appropriations within Major Funds (Education, Debt, Operations, and Rainy Day) to establish the 2023 Budget for the current year from the State Approved Budget Order by Major Account Classification.

Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve the above resolution. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

##### 3. Permission to Purchase New Chromebooks for 2023/2024 School Year, Approval

Mr. Marsh asked for approval to purchase Chromebooks for grades 3 – 12 for the 2023/2024 school year. The funding for this will be between two common school loans and the technology budget.

Mr. Taggart made a motion to approve the purchase of these Chromebooks. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

##### 4. January Fund Report

A copy of this report was included in the board packet.

#### G. Relations (Policy 9000)

##### 1. North Vernon Police Department SRO Agreement, Approval

Mrs. Johnson brought the annual NVPD SRO agreement that has an option for multi-year and also includes language to allow us to move forward with a third SRO position dependent on NVPD staff. Mrs. Johnson asked for approval.

Ms. Whitcomb made a motion to approve the SRO Agreement. Mr. Taggart seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

#### E. Property (Policy 7000)

##### 1. Safety and Security Update, Inform

Mrs. Johnson gave an update on School Safety and Security:

Jennings County School Corporation deeply values the safety and security of our students, staff, and families. We work in partnership with the North Vernon Police Department and the Jennings County Sheriff's Department in an ongoing effort to secure our buildings. We have prioritized training school administrators and have certified school safety-trained individuals in each building. In the event of any identified school safety threat, we take swift and immediate action to notify law enforcement and request assistance. We dedicate ourselves to doing so with transparency and notify the public with additional information as available and appropriate for safety. We have already been working diligently to continue to

**A Resolution to allow the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to make adjustments to Appropriations within Major Funds (Education, Debt, Operations, and Rainy Day) to establish the 2023 Budget for the current year from the State Approved Budget Order by Major Account Classification.**

**Whereas,** The Board of Trustees of Jennings County Schools is not scheduled to have a meeting between February 9, 2023, and February 23, 2023, and,

**Whereas,** It is necessary to have Board action in order to transfer appropriations with major account classifications, and,

**Whereas,** It is deemed to be in the public interest to ensure that adequate appropriations are available within the major classifications.

**Now therefore be it resolved,** that the Board of Trustees of Jennings County Schools hereby authorizes the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer of the Corporation to transfer appropriated amounts within the 2023 Education, Debt Service, and Operations Funds between February 9, 2023 and February 23, 2023.

Be it further resolved that an appropriation transfer report summarizing these adjustments to establish the 2023 Budget for this period is to be presented to the Board for final action on or before the last regularly scheduled Board meeting in February 2023.

**Resolution #: Bus2022-002**                      Adopted this 9th day of February, 2023.

**JENNINGS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**

AYE	NAY
	
	
	
	
	
	
	

ATTEST:   
Secretary

invest in school safety and continuously strengthen our knowledge and security plans. In the last three years, we have invested in increased camera surveillance, updated locks, fencing, staff training, and communication systems. In consideration of recent threats, we are continuing to review our plans for next steps internally and do so in consultation with our current partners and other law enforcement experts. We take school safety very seriously and are committed to continuously updating and improving.

Mrs. Johnson updated the new Building Entry Procedures During School Hours: Jennings County School Corporation values parent involvement and community connections. We have worked to increase our ability to interact with our parents and families post-COVID. Many important conversations happen as parents pick up students and drop off needed items. We have checked at each entry for visitor purpose and the need for building entry. We complete background checks prior to entry past secure office areas.

Last week, an individual who had a planned delivery and is a parent arrived at one of our buildings. This person chose to purposely conceal a weapon prior to entry. Due to this incident and review of secure entry procedures, at this time, JCSC will not be allowing school entry during school hours for item drop off/pick up purposes. Please be prepared if visiting a building with your I.D. and anticipate a short wait while we assist you.

We are saddened that we are unable to welcome you in another manner at this time. We will be reviewing our safety procedures and entry plans with law enforcement and will continue to revise and add measures as appropriate. We thank you for your understanding.

Greg Browning, parent of a student at Graham Creek Elementary, spoke about his concern in recent events of the bomb threats and the individual accessing the interior of our school system with a loaded gun.

He went on to state that we only have two resource officers to cover the entire Jennings County School system, an area of over 378 square miles with 9 buildings and 3900 students plus staff and faculty. This is an unacceptable average considering our children are the most valuable possession on the face of this planet and yet the most vulnerable when it comes to being attacked.

As a comparison when you go to the JC Government building or the JC Courthouse there's an armed deputy sheriff at the door and patrons must pass through a metal detector before entry is allowed. There is roughly a couple dozen employees at each one of these buildings, all of which are grown adults, and we provide all this protection. I find this negligent and unacceptable.

The question is "When are we going to provide the same police protection and metal detectors at our schools that we so willingly give to a handful of adults in our county government?"

In closing, Mr. Browning asked the board members to take wise and decisive action now and provide an appropriate solution to our security.

Dr. Pettit thanked Mr. Browning for coming tonight and went on to say that we very much want to hear from community members, it's important because we are

partners. Conversations are continuing between JCSC and our partners in Law Enforcement to guide us to make appropriate decisions. Dr. Pettit stated that the entire board, everyone in this room, our staff and faculty we all take safety of our students as our highest priority.

F. Operations (Policy 8000)

1. Permission to Purchase Four 2024 School Buses (1-year lead time), Approval Inform

Mr. Marsh stated that the transportation committee has met and we'll bring this to the board for approval at our next board meeting.

G. Relations (Policy 9000)

1. North Vernon Police Department SRO Agreement, Approval  
This item was taken above.

VI. Claims

The claims were presented for approval in the amount of \$1,793,668.67 (claims 12,153 – 12,310).

These claims were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

VII. Other

A. Updates

1. Other

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

The Board of Trustees of Jennings County School Corporation did not discuss any subject matter in the Executive Session other than that specified in the Public Notice.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Pettit - President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Travis Shepherd

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chelsea Morrison - Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Earl Taggart

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pat Sullivan - Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Lynn Whitcomb

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl Miller